

## Activity Summary

**Activity:** State Conservation Grants  
**FY 2002 Enacted:** \$140.000 million

Program Component	2002 Enacted	FY 2003			Change From 2002 (+/-)
		Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
State Conservation Grants	140,000	0	+54,600	194,600	+54,600
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+54,600</b>	<b>194,600</b>	<b>+54,600</b>

### Authorization

16 U.S.C. 460l et.seq. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, as amended

### Overview

**The State Conservation Grants** activity provides matching grants to States, and through States, to local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities that provide public access to lands, waters and other recreation resources. The grants provide incentives for continuing State outdoor recreation planning and for greater commitments by State governments to conservation and improvement of recreation resources at every level, emphasizing the role of States and localities in a nationwide recreation system.

### Applicable National Park Service Mission Goals

- IIIb** Through partnerships with other federal, state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc** Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreational use.

### FY 2002 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

The demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities accessible to urban and growing suburban areas continues to increase. The grant program also recognizes State and local efforts to acquire open space, park and recreation lands and other highly valued resources; and seeks to leverage State and local efforts to address these needs through matching grant assistance.

This program has been very successful in encouraging States to take greater responsibility for the protection and development of open space and recreational resources. Every project acquired or developed is protected in perpetuity. Through this partnership with States and local governments, providing recreation opportunity while preserving these areas for future generations can often be accomplished in a more timely and cost-effective way than through Federal action. Funding for State and local park recreation projects is a viable alternative to Federal management of these areas.

#### At A Glance...

- Program initiated in 1965
- Federal amounts have been matched by non-Federal
- Provided \$3.3 billion for 38,000 grants to date
- Funds for grants increased nearly 60% in FY 2002
- About 80 grants will be awarded in FY 2002
- Funding allows one out of ten grant applications to be approved

**Justification of FY 2003 Budget Request: State Conservation Grants**

<b>Request Component</b>	<b>Amount</b>
FY 2002 Enacted Budget	140,000
Programmatic Changes	
• Cooperative Conservation Initiative	+48,600
• State Conservation Grants	+6,000
<b>TOTAL, Program Changes</b>	<b>+54,600</b>
Uncontrollable changes	No change
<b>FY 2003 Budget Request</b>	<b>194,600</b>
Net change	+54,600

**State Conservation Grants: +\$48.600 million**

The NPS is proposing an increase in FY 2003 as part of a \$50 million **Cooperative Conservation Initiative** (CCI). The CCI would provide \$48.6 million for grants to benefit the States for restoration, protection and enhancement of natural areas. Purposes would include but not be limited to habitat protection, wetlands, restoration, and riparian area protection. Projects will be nominated and administered through the Governors' State Liaison Officers in accordance with planning documents approved by the Secretary. Preference will be given to non-traditional methods of conservation and multiple partners. While the State is required to match the Federal funds at least 1:1, States should require their partners to match their contribution. In contrast to the current State Conservation Grants program, these grants would require that any property acquired must have clear links to restoration goals. Acquisitions would, however, need to be consistent with accessibility and meet purposes of perpetuity. A total of \$1.4 million is proposed separately for project administration. Final recommendations on the applications will be made by the NPS Director with final review by the Secretary.

This request is part of the proposed Cooperative Conservation Initiative, of which \$50 million would be located within the State Conservation Grants program. A total of \$22 million is proposed to be funded under the Challenge Cost Share program within the NPS Operation of the National Park System appropriation, bringing the NPS portion to \$72 million. The Initiative totals \$100 million, with the remaining \$28 million requested by Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

**State Conservation Grants: +\$6.000 million**

For 2003, an increase of \$6 million is proposed for a total of \$146 million for grants under the regular apportionment to the States (\$140 million was appropriated in FY 2002). This \$6 million increase will allow an estimated 25-50 additional grants to States and local units of government for identified recreation needs.